# Political Science POL336

# Middle East Politics & Institutions

# SUNY New Paltz

# Fall 2012

# MR 10:50-12:05

# Professor Ş. İlgü Özler

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# Office Hours: M 1-3 and W 12-2 or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course explores the struggle over democratization and political institutional development in the Middle East. We examine the political and ideological forces that compete for power and study the influence of Islam, nationalism and democratic movements in several countries. We explore the effects of combination of these forces on political development and nation building following the fall of the Ottoman Empire. There will be an emphasis on the current affects of political economy, culture and institutions in the region. We will study diverse political systems, ranging from democracy in consolidation process in Turkey, to various authoritarian regimes including one-person rule in the Sultanate of Oman, Islamic republicanism in Iran, and regimes in transition in Egypt. We will consider how power is continuously challenged by opposing political and ideological forces in these countries.

**Course Objectives**

Students are expected to

* Describe political institutions and systems in the Middle East,
* Define terms related to Middle East geography, culture and politics,
* Comprehend comparative politics texts and identify the main argument,
* Analyze country case studies in the context of arguments in comparative politics and Middle East area studies.
* Describe a country through writing a background note
* Synthesize literature through writing a literature review on a specific subject
* Formulate a hypothesis
* Construct arguments in the context of a debate.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance and Class Activities (15%)**

You are required to attend class regularly. Unless excused in advance or you have proof of emergency, you may not miss more than 2 class periods without penalty. Do not come to class late. If you walk in late, you are responsible for getting the instructor to mark you present after class. 2 late arrivals equal an absence up to two absences, after the 4th lateness all late arrivals are counted as absent. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in a 0 in attendance and participation grade.

Come to class prepared to participate. I would like our discussions to be focused on the relevant topic, but the expression of varying viewpoints is encouraged. Some of these discussions will cover issues upon which we may not all agree. While it is expected that you will develop your own views, it is important that everyone be willing to hear alternative viewpoints and that we treat one another with respect regardless of whether we agree or disagree.

If you attend class regularly and never participate, the highest you can earn is 7 points. Thus, demonstrating your interest and participation in the class is essential to earn a good grade.

**Readings**

You must do all the readings for the week before coming to class. Additional readings that are not included in the syllabus may be assigned by the instructor.

*Available at the Inquiring Minds Bookstore on Church Street Downtown New Paltz:*

The Middle East, Ellen Lust editor. CQ Press Twelfth Edition.

Additional Readings are listed under course outline and available on Blackboard.

**Country Case Study Paper (30%)**

You are required to write an 8-12 page paper for this course. A detailed paper assignment will be distributed in class.

**Studying the Arab Spring. This paper will reflect on why the country that you are studying has or has not been transitioning in the process of the Arab Spring.**

**Step 1: 3 page country back ground (8 %)**

**Step 2: 4 page literature review on the Arab Spring what are the possible explanations (10 %)**

**Step 3: Application to your case study: analysis and conclusion (12%)**

Countries to be selected:

Algeria

Morocco

Libya

Tunisia

Palestinian Territories

Jordan

Lebanon

Iraq

Syria

Kuwait

UAE

Bahrain

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Sudan

Yemen

**In class debate (10%):** This debate will be set up based on the interest area of the students. The students will be presented with a set of questions to be developed in the class and the students will debate in a structured class debate. Additional readings to be provided if the issue has not been covered in class readings already.

**Exams (45%)**

There will be two written in-class exams. These exams are made up of essay and short answer questions. No make up exams are given unless you get an approval from the instructor prior to the exam with a valid excuse or bring evidence of a valid excuse after the exam such as a doctor’s note.

# Grading Policy

Mid Term Exam 20%

Final Exam 25%

Paper 30%

Debate 10%

Attendance &Class Participation 15%

Total 100%

**WARNING!!!**

**You are responsible for all of the policies explained in this syllabus. Ignorance of these policies is not an acceptable excuse for failing to meet the course requirements. You are encouraged to read over this syllabus very carefully and refer to it regularly throughout the course. On rare occasion, changes in policy which supersede the syllabus may be announced in class. You are responsible for knowing any updated policies regardless of whether you were in attendance when new policies were announced.**

**Note: It is the policy of SUNY New Paltz to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students in need should contact the Disability Resource Center in room 205 of the Student Union Building or phone (845) 257-3020 for more information.**

**Note: Students should be aware of and adhere to all college academic integrity policies in regard to cheating, forgery, and plagiarism. The STL has a very good web site explaining these policies, see: http://library.newpaltz.edu/assistance/plag.html**

**Note: If questions arise about class cancellations or delays due to snow or other conditions call 257-INFO.**

**Course Outline**

 **(Aug 27-30-Sep 6) Brief Background and Introduction to the Middle East**

Andersen, Seibert, Wagner (pp.32-53)

Middle East (10-64)

 **(Sep 10-13) Middle Eastern Society and Social Change**

Middle East Chapter 2 (65-98)

**(Sep 20-24) Political Culture**

Middle East Chapter 5 (193-237)

Jamal, Amaney and Mark Tessler. 2008. “The Democracy Barometer: Attitudes in the Arab World” Journal of Democracy. Vol 19: 97-110.

**(Sept 27-Oct 1) Political Economy**

Middle East Chapter 3 (99-142)

Ross, Michael. 2001. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” World Politics. Vol 53 No 3. 325-360.

**(October 4- 9) Political Institutions**

Middle East Chapter 4 (143-193)

Bellin, Eva. 2004. “Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East” *Comparative Politics*. January. 139-157.

## (October 11) Bellin, Eva R. "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism: Lessons of the Arab Spring" Comparative Politics 44. 2 (2012): 127-149.

(Oct 15) Midterm October 15

Case Studies:

**(Oct 18- 22-25)**

**Turkey**

Turkey’s Tigers Movie

Middle East Chapter 24

Turam, Berna. 2012. “Turkey under the AKP: Are Rights and Liberties Safe?” *Journal of Democracy* Volume 23, Number 1 (109-118)*.*

**(Oct 29 Nov 1-5) Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Middle East Chapter 11

Nasr, Vali. “Iran’s Peculiar Election: The Conservative Wave Rolls On” *Journal of Democracy*; October 2005 16:4 9-22

Movie

 **(Nov 8-12-15)** **Egypt**

**Guest Lecture from Egypt: Jim Ketterer, Country Director for AMIDEAST Egypt.** [**www.amideast.org/egypt/**](http://www.amideast.org/egypt/)

Read before lecture the following short articles:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/07/the-real-reason-the-us-should-consider-cutting-military-aid-to-egypt/259302/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/30/opinion/how-the-army-won-egypts-election.html?_r=1>

<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero062912>

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/gapp/cairoreview/Pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=148>

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/CairoReview/Pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=201>

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/pr/egypt-prelim-061912.html>

Readings: Middle East Chapter 10 (387-410)

######  **(Nov 19- 26- 29) Debate over Islam and Transition (Turkey, Iran and Egypt continued)**

Berman, Sheri. 2003. “Islamism, Revolution and Civil Society.” *Perspectives on Politics* Vol 1 No 2 257-269.

Bayat, Asef. 2007. Making Islam Democratic. Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn. Stanford University Press (1-48 and 187-208)

###### **(Nov Dec 3-6) Oman**

Middle East Chapter 20 (632-658)

 **(Dec 10) Final Discussion**

**FINAL**

Thursday December 20, 10:15-12:15

(You are responsible for confirming that this information is correct!)